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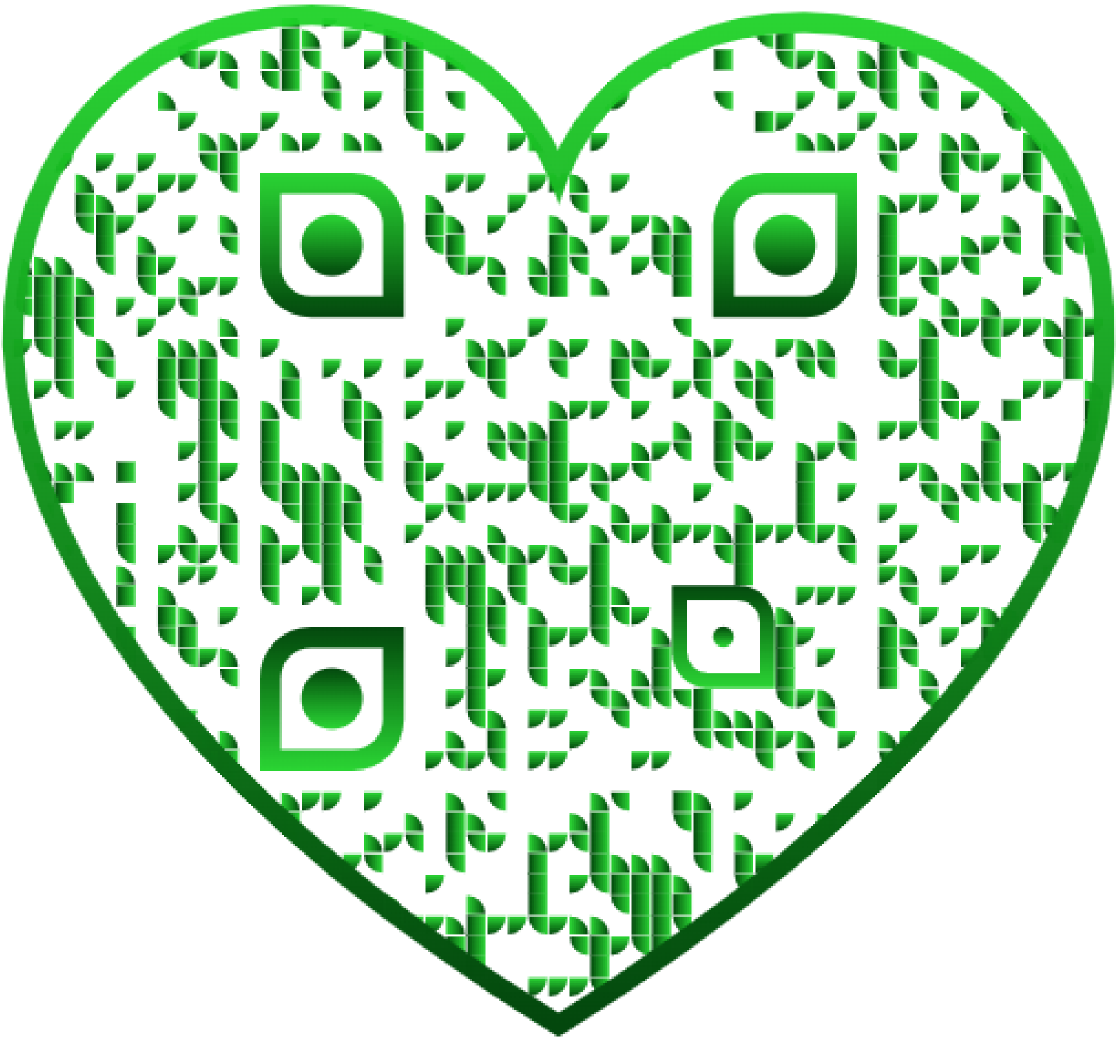

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It's all about triggering emotion via imagery. When I convey the very essence of a situation with a single photograph, then I am complete, because the viewer understands more than the moment, they know the situation.

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Contributor

Time passes like wind on my cheeks. However, with each new travel experience, there is a rebirth. New personal growth and new friends no matter what stage of life.

- Michael Sobel

LEO MCADAMS

Creative Director

My roots may be Chilean, but my vacation of choice will always be a cruise to the Caribbean. St. Thomas, I'm coming!

OCEAN HOUSE

AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL RESIDENCES

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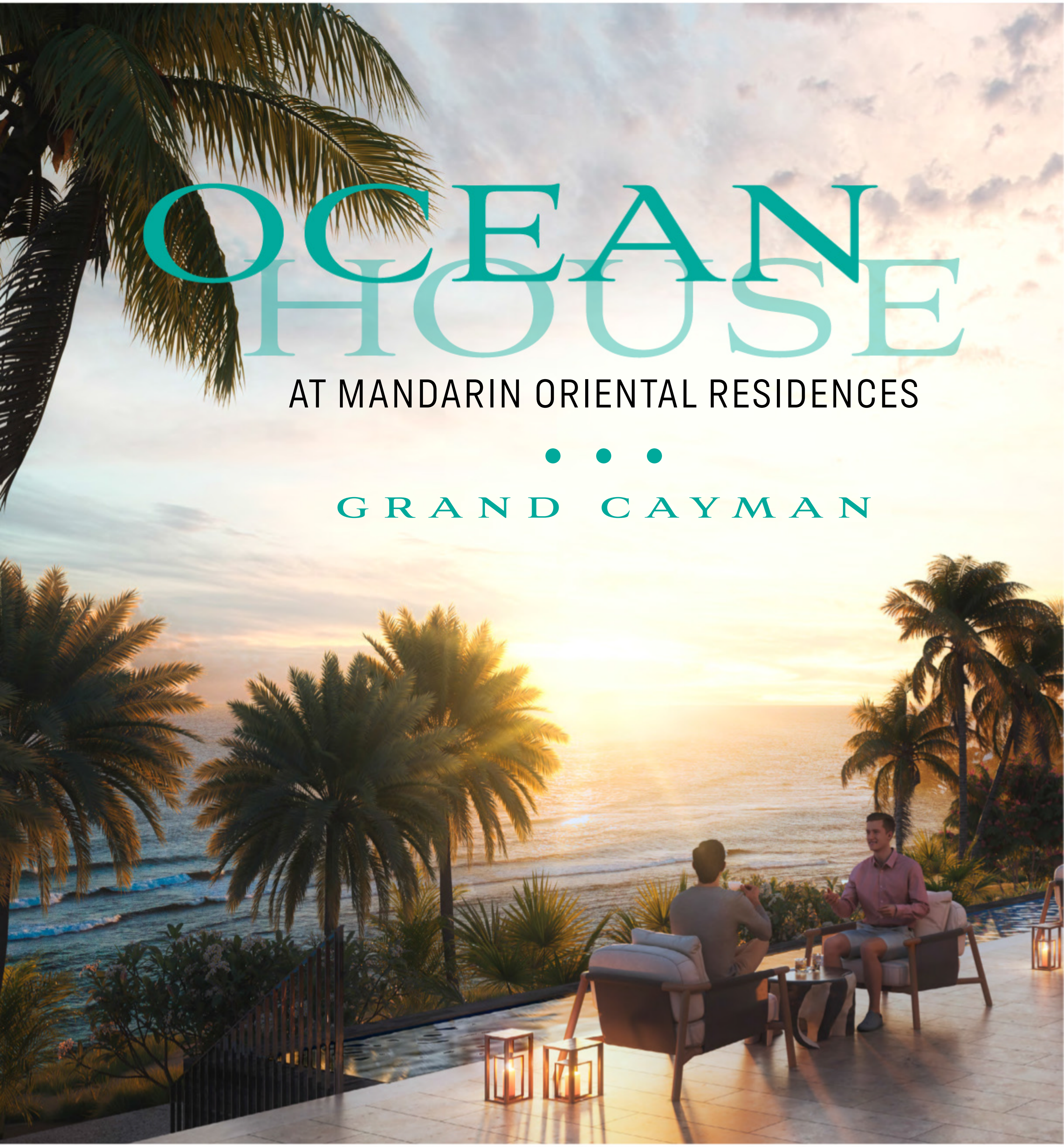
GRAND CAYMAN



REFINED, SECLUDED...

UNAPOLOGETICALLY LUXURIOUS.

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> "POISED DRAMATICALLY ATOP A CLIFF OVERLOOKING THE TURQUOISE WATERS OF THE CARIBBEAN SEA, OCEAN HOUSE IS MORE THAN A RESIDENTIAL OFFERING—IT'S A STATEMENT OF ARTFUL LIVING."

* * *

A striking new name has arrived on the Caribbean's ultra-luxury residential scene. Ocean House—a rarefied collection of private residences—has officially been unveiled at the highly anticipated *Mandarin Oriental Residences, Grand Cayman*. Developed by Melkonian Capital Management and RAL Companies, this architectural jewel is nestled within the exclusive sanctuary of St. James Point, offering an unprecedented blend of privacy, design, and legendary Mandarin Oriental service.

Poised dramatically atop a cliff overlooking the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea, Ocean House is more than a residential offering—it's a statement of artful living. Paris-based architect Reda Amalou, Founder and Partner of AW2, has envisioned 22 two-, three-, and four-bedroom residences that exemplify timeless elegance and sophisticated design. Each home is thoughtfully crafted to blur the line between interior and exterior living, with expansive wraparound terraces that frame unobstructed ocean vistas and invite in the island breeze.

From the moment of arrival, Ocean House reveals its exceptional attention to detail. A grand porte-cochère leads to a double-height lobby where natural oak, limestone, and brass finishes echo the serene island palette. The residences, too, offer a bespoke living experience: fluted oak cabinetry, hand-selected marbles, oversized soaking tubs with sea views, and exhibition kitchens equipped with top-tier appliances. Every finish feels curated—commissioned rather than constructed.

Central to the experience is the private Ocean House Club, where owners enjoy a residents-only club room and ocean-facing infinity pool. Yet the perks don't end there. As part of the Mandarin Oriental, Grand Cayman, owners also enjoy full access to the five-star resort's amenities—an ocean-view spa, curated wellness programs, marine adventures, and a suite of oceanfront dining experiences.

Slated for completion in early 2028, this marks Mandarin Oriental's first ground-up resort and residence development in the Caribbean. Alongside Ocean House, the development includes The Beach House collection—ultra-luxury residences set atop the hotel itself—blending resort intimacy with private residential serenity.

The 67-acre property commands one of Grand Cayman's highest natural elevations at 35 feet above sea level, with over half a mile of pristine ocean frontage, including a secluded 1,000-foot crescent beach. The surrounding tropical landscape only enhances the sense of arrival—and escape.

Prices for Ocean House residences begin at $6 million, reflecting the caliber of this unmatched address.

> "EVERY DETAIL OF OCEAN HOUSE WAS DESIGNED TO CREATE A SEAMLESS HARMONY BETWEEN THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE AND REFINED LUXURY."
>
> -ARCHITECT REDA AMALOU

That sentiment is echoed by the development team and Mandarin Oriental leadership, who describe the project as "a true resort destination that redefines oceanfront living in Grand Cayman."

For those seeking the pinnacle of island living—one that combines effortless elegance, unrivaled service, and panoramic ocean views—Ocean House is the Caribbean's most exciting new address.

WHERE THE *Jungle* MEETS THE SEA

A SOULFUL STAY AT CASA XIXIM

By Peta Phipps

Each year, our tight-knit circle of five escapes the daily grind for one long weekend—our annual ritual of reconnection, laughter, and indulgence. Last year, we cruised through the crystalline waters of the British Virgin Islands on a sleek yacht. This year, we traded sails for sand and found ourselves in the lush, barefoot-luxury embrace of Tulum's Casa Xixim. This time, our little tribe grew by one. Fiona, Cameron's impossibly charming five-year-old daughter, came along—and somehow made paradise even sweeter.

From the moment we stepped through the hand-carved wooden doors of Casa Xixim, we knew this was no ordinary beachfront villa. Nestled within the protected biosphere of Sian Ka'an, the home seems to breathe with the land. Palms swayed, waves whispered, and the very air felt sacred. The design was a harmonious blend of modern eco-luxury and warm, rooted authenticity. Open-air spaces, artisan textiles, and the rhythmic sound of the surf made it clear: we had found our sanctuary.

Our days unfolded with a delicious lack of urgency. Mornings began with fresh juice and the smell of homemade tortillas wafting from the kitchen. Guillermo and Nestor, our private chefs and culinary magicians, crafted meals that danced on our palates—layers of heat and heart, tang and tenderness. Every dish was a love letter to Mexico: chilaquiles bathed in smoky salsa verde, grilled fish kissed with lime and chilies, and silky mole that seemed to hold centuries of tradition in each bite. There was no need—or desire—to dine anywhere else.

We spent our afternoons lounging by the pool or barefoot on the beach in our private cabana, watching Fiona chase crabs and build castles in the sand. Her laughter, unfiltered and contagious, stitched us even closer together. Watching David gently teach her how to float on her back while Cameron beamed from a distance—that image is tattooed on my heart.

Though it was tempting to remain in our villa cocoon, we ventured out one morning to the ethereal wonder of the Dos Ojos Cenote. It felt like stepping into a dream—cool, crystal-clear waters beneath limestone arches, sunlight streaming through openings in the jungle canopy. We floated in reverent silence, the only sounds our soft gasps of awe and the distant drip of water echoing like whispers from the past. Fiona swam between us like a tiny mermaid, her wide eyes reflecting the otherworldly blue below.

Back at Casa Xixim, evenings were for stories and stars. We gathered in the living room, sipping smoky mezcal and recounting old memories, making new ones with every shared glance and laugh. Dina and I stayed up late talking about life and parenting, love and purpose. Even Graeme, usually reserved, opened up in the gentle rhythm of our tropical nights, sharing his music with us, and painting a backdrop to our conversations.

The villa didn't just house us—it held us.

By the end of the trip, it was hard to imagine ever leaving. The ladies who came and gave us 90 minute massages, we thought were the reason for our floating through the day, it turns out that Casa Xixim had blurred the lines between family and friends, between travel and home. It reminded us that luxury isn't always loud—it's often quiet, heartfelt, and deeply connected to place.

As we boarded our plane back to the real world, Fiona clutched her little coral-studded seashell and waved goodbye to the sea. "Let's come back soon," she said, and we all silently agreed. Because some places don't just host your vacation—they call you back like a lullaby on the breeze.

DISCOVER Dominica

THE CARIBBEAN'S BEST-KEPT SECRET

This summer, venture beyond crowded tourist hotspots to Dominica, the Caribbean's hidden gem, where untouched nature, rich culture and adventure await

I had to see for myself what makes Dominica such a special gem in the Caribbean. After a red-eye flight from LAX to Miami and then a three-and-a-half hour flight from Miami, I descended into a lush paradise that quickly distinguished itself from its more well-known neighbors. As the island's peaks pierced the clouds and the deep blue of the Atlantic merged with the vibrant greens of the island, I knew I was about to experience something unlike anywhere else in the Caribbean.

Above: Suite's Ocean View

Along the northwest coast of the island, the InterContinental Dominica Cabrits Resort & Spa is an oasis where the island's untamed beauty meets luxury. Dominica might not have the glitzy resorts or crowded beaches of other Caribbean destinations, but that's exactly what makes it so alluring. It's a place that hasn't yet succumbed to overdevelopment and over-tourism, offering visitors the chance to enjoy the Caribbean as it was meant to be—unspoiled, raw and breathtakingly beautiful.

Perched on the Cabrits Peninsula, where its oceanfront location provides sweeping views of the turquoise waters and verdant hillsides, the resort perfectly embraces the essence of the island. It offers a seamless blend of nature and sophistication, with a design that pays homage to the country's rich cultural heritage and natural surroundings. While staying true to the island's authentic spirit, the beachfront resort is a wellness sanctuary designed for the eco-conscious luxury traveler.

"At InterContinental Dominica Cabrits Resort & Spa, we've created a place where the raw beauty of Dominica and refined design work in perfect harmony. From our wellness-inspired spaces to our connection with the surrounding national park and coastal waters, every element of the resort was intentionally crafted to reflect the island's soul," said General Manager Ramy Haykal. "Our goal is to offer guests more than just a stay—we invite them to immerse themselves in a truly authentic Caribbean experience, one that celebrates nature, culture, and meaningful moments."

The resort's 131 rooms and suites are spacious and designed with every comfort in mind. And for those who want to take their stay to the next level, the resort offers private villas and residences, ideal for families or groups looking for extra space and exclusivity. I stayed in an ocean-facing room - waking up to the sound of the waves crashing against the shore while gazing out over the Caribbean Sea was a treat I won't soon forget - but the property offers rooms that also offer views of the surrounding rainforest, or the nearby Cabrits National Park.

BEYOND THE PROPERTY, DOMINICA IS A PLACE FOR EXPLORATION AND THE RESORT'S PRIME LOCATION MAKES IT THE PERFECT BASE TO DISCOVER THE ISLAND'S WONDERS.

From the popular Titou Gorge to Trafalgar Falls or finding the hot springs of Ti Kwen Glo Cho, activities are endless and best booked with local guide DG Tours. Cabrits National Park, just a stone's throw away from the resort, is a must-visit. The park is home to rare flora and fauna, and guests can hike to the top of a hill for panoramic views of the island's lush landscape and coastline and see the historic Fort Shirley.

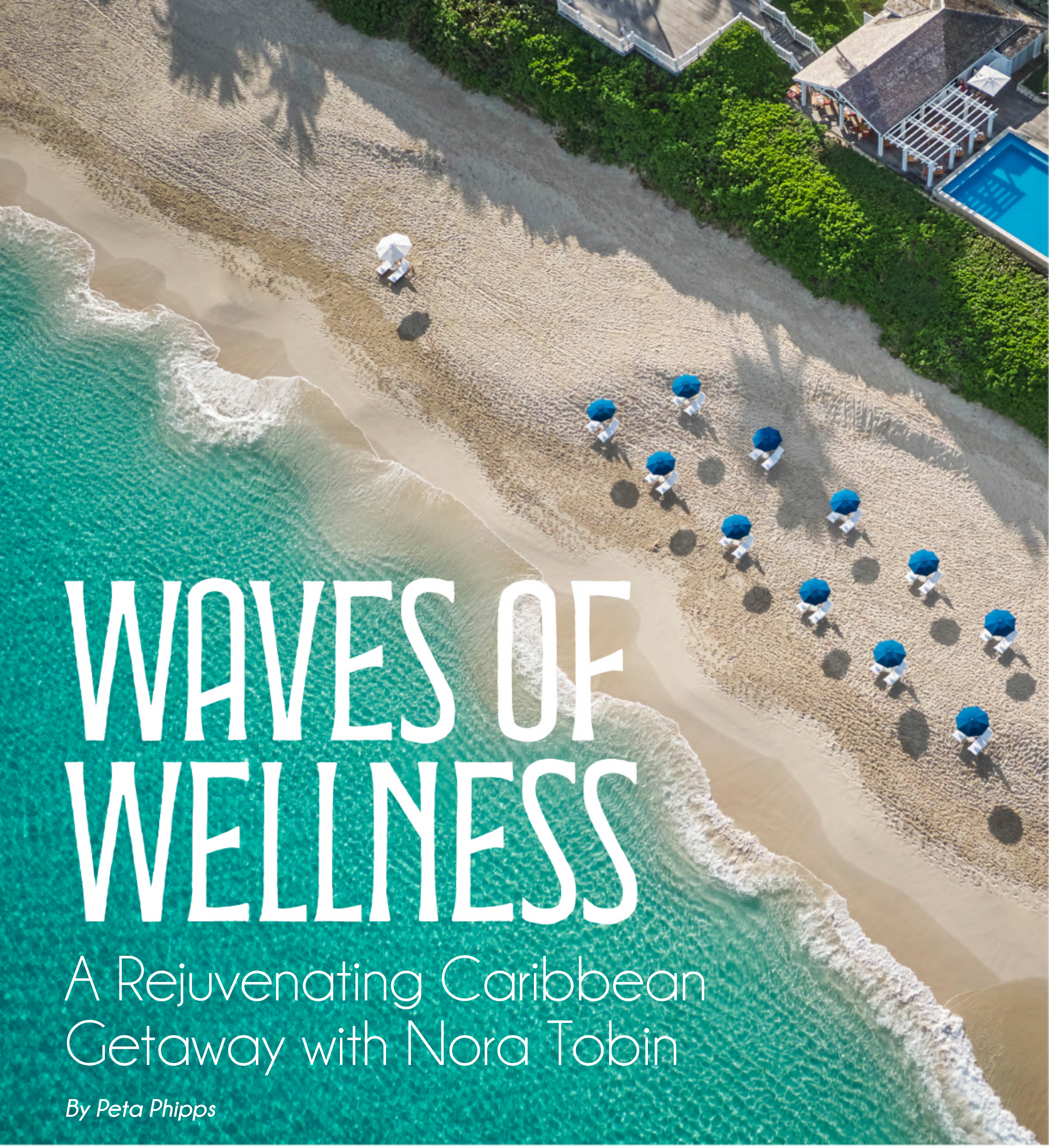
And let's not forget about the famous Boiling Lake, a geothermal wonder that is one of the world's largest boiling lakes. It's a challenging hike, but well worth the effort for the views and the sheer awe of witnessing nature's raw power up close. Whether you're into hiking through the island's dense rainforests, swimming in its many waterfalls, or exploring the underwater world, Dominica offers endless opportunities for adventure.

For those who prefer a more relaxed experience, the island's secluded beaches are perfect for snorkeling or simply lounging in the sun. A boat tour along the Indian River takes you to iconic film scenes from Johnny Depp's "Pirates of the Caribbean" and ends at a bush bar where you can buy local rum punch and roam around the gardens behind the bar. At Pointe Baptiste Estate, learn about making chocolate from bean to bar, before tasting one of their fine chocolate bars which come in a variety of flavors.

Back at the resort, after a day of exploration, I couldn't wait to unwind with a spa treatment at the Cabrits Spa & Oasis. The spa is a sanctuary, offering a range of treatments inspired by the island's natural elements. From aromatic body scrubs using local cocoa to soothing massages that melt away stress, the experience was the perfect way to rejuvenate surrounded by the rainforest and green spaces of Dominica's Douglas Bay. In one of their seven standalone Polynesian style raised wellness huts, choose their Tropical Escape Scrub & Massage to enjoy the benefits of restorative Dominican fruits before relaxing on one of their outdoor pavilions.

As night falls, the resort transforms into an intimate retreat, with soft lighting, ocean breezes and the sounds of nature filling the air. After sipping a Spicy Kalinago at the bar overlooking the sea, I enjoyed dinner at Cabrits, the properties main restaurant, where Chef Robert blends fresh local ingredients with international flavors. His signature dishes being the True Dominican Banan Peze Tartare and the Local Seafood Platter are stars of the show, with catch-of-the-day options like salmon and tuna are as fresh as they come.

To have the chance to indulge in luxury and experience authentic Caribbean culture in its truest form, the InterContinental Dominica Cabrits Resort & Spa is the perfect place to begin your journey. An off-the-beaten path destination - be prepared for lots of winding curves on your one-hour drive from the airport - that offers a true sense of place and an unparalleled combination of relaxation, adventure and world-class hospitality.



WAVES OF WELLNESS

A Rejuvenating Caribbean Getaway with Nora Tobin

By Peta Phipps

When wellness expert and lifestyle visionary Nora Tobin curates a Caribbean escape, you know it won't be ordinary. It's a masterclass in how to reconnect with self, sip something healthy and sublime, and soak in island luxury—all without ever missing a sunset.

Set against the lush backdrop of The Ocean Club, A Four Seasons Resort, Bahamas, this three-day rejuvenation getaway was part soul revival, part sensory celebration, and entirely unforgettable. With its legendary Versailles-inspired gardens, powdery white sand beaches, and quietly opulent vibe, the resort offered the ideal canvas for Nora's signature wellness experience.

A ROOM WITH A VIEW—AND A VIBE

Our second-floor suite felt more like a private sanctuary than a hotel room. Airy, elegant, and awash in natural light, it opened up to a view so breathtaking it almost seemed curated—palm-framed ocean blues, gentle waves, and tropical serenity at every glance. Inside, the details whispered luxury: crisp linens, soothing textures, and every comfort you could crave after a day of intentional movement and mindful indulgence.

SPA BLISS: THE ART OF THE DELECTABLE MASSAGE

The spa at The Ocean Club is renowned, but the signature massage during this stay was in a league of its own. It was a delectable experience—equal parts therapy and indulgence. With warm essential oils, deeply restorative strokes, and the intuitive touch of an expert therapist, the treatment dissolved every ounce of tension. We emerged from the dimly lit spa pavilion relaxed, radiant, and just a little bit in love with the experience.

NOURISHMENT, ELEVATED

Culinary moments were a standout element of the retreat, blending gourmet sophistication with wellness-forward thinking. Fresh Bahamian seafood, vibrant local produce, and Nora's curated menus made every bite feel indulgent yet aligned. Morning smoothies were energizing, lunches light and flavorful, and dinners nothing short of exquisite—especially when enjoyed al fresco under the stars, the ocean whispering nearby.

WELLNESS IN EVERY BREATH

The essence of this retreat was balance—between movement and stillness, vitality and calm. From morning yoga overlooking the ocean to breathwork sessions in the shade of swaying palms, every moment was intentionally designed to nourish body and mind. Nora led with her trademark warmth, making wellness accessible, empowering, and genuinely joyful.

The resort staff were seamlessly exceptional—anticipating needs with a graciousness that felt like second nature. It wasn't just service; it was intuitive hospitality. From a refreshing towel at just the right moment to thoughtful details that added magic to every meal, they brought Nora's vision of holistic luxury to life.

A STROLL TO REMEMBER

On our final morning, we took a long, languid walk along the pristine curve of Paradise Island's beach. With each step in the warm Bahamian sand, it became clear: this wasn't just a vacation—it was a return to self. The turquoise waves lapped gently at our feet, the horizon shimmered with possibility, and the moment felt like a deep exhale.

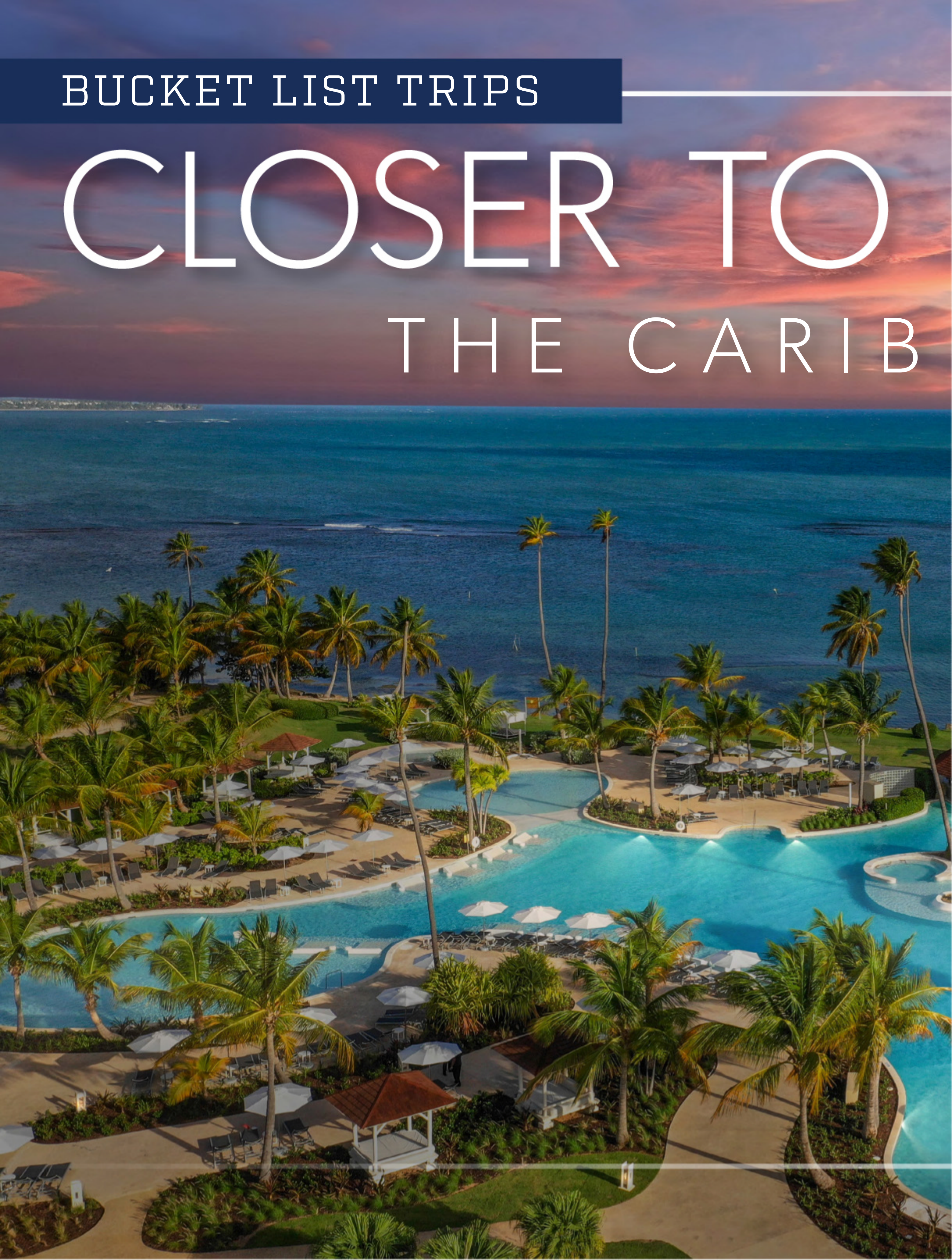
A RESONANCE THAT LINGERS

At The Ocean Club, A Four Seasons Resort, Bahamas, Nora Tobin orchestrated more than a retreat—she created a revival. This escape wasn't about checking out; it was about tuning in: To nature - To your body - To joy - To calm.

Wellness was the resonating theme—and the takeaway was simple: when done right, it stays with you long after the tan fades.

This summer, you can enjoy the same escape. Book your stay at www.fourseasons.com/oceanclub and get ready to rejuvenate your soul.

CLOSER TO THE CARIB



HOME

BEAN EDIT

Thinking of getaways always puts a smile on our faces. Rethinking long-haul journeys for ones closer to home turns that smile into a grin. Check out these options and start ticking off that bucketlist, or at least start rethinking it.

INSTEAD OF: AUSTRALIA'S GREAT BARRIER REEF

TRY: SNORKELING IN SOUTH ANDROS, ONE OF THE BAHAMAS' LARGEST, LEAST INHABITED ISLANDS

You don't need to venture as far as Australia to discover some of the ocean's most beautiful reefs, caves, and marine life. Aptly nicknamed 'The Sleeping Giant,' the Bahamian island of South Andros is an idyllic destination for fishing and diving enthusiasts. This off-grid paradise offers more than 200 blue hole ocean caves (the most in the world!), the third-largest barrier reef, and 90+ miles of immaculate beaches. It's also home to the Tongue of the Ocean – a deep-water basin known for its rich ecosystem of marine life. The island's first five star resort, Caerula Mar Club, offers ocean adventures led by PADI-certified diving instructors. When visitors aren't underwater, they can lounge on 10 acres of beach where you won't spot a single footprint, relax in gorgeous private villas, and use complimentary bicycles to explore by land. The best part? It's just an hour flight from Fort Lauderdale with its own international customs, which makes getting in and out a breeze.

INSTEAD OF: THE GROTTA DI NEREO IN ITALY

TRY: EXPLORING THE BLUE ROOM IN CURAÇAO

If you're dreaming of an unforgettable underwater cave dive but don't want to travel halfway around the world, consider swapping Sardinia's Grotta di Nereo for Curaçao's glowing Blue Room. While Italy's famed sea cave is celebrated as Europe's largest—an epic labyrinth of chambers beneath the limestone cliffs of Capo Caccia—it requires boat access and deeper, more complex navigation. In contrast, Curaçao's Blue Room offers a more relaxed, visually stunning experience that's just as bucket list-worthy and a whole lot closer to home. Tucked into the island's northwest coast near Playa Santa Cruz, the Blue Room is a natural sea cave that quite literally glows. Sunlight streams through its single underwater entrance and reflects off the Caribbean's impossibly clear waters, flooding the cave with a magical, electric-blue hue. Whether you're diving or snorkeling, the vibe is serene, photogenic, and surreal—a perfect blend of natural wonder and accessibility. You won't need advanced diving skills or long boat rides to get there—just a short trail walk and a sense of adventure. It's also steps away from Curaçao's iconic Mushroom Forest dive site and other secluded beaches, so you can easily turn one cave dive into a full day of exploration. If you're craving an unforgettable underwater escape without a transatlantic flight, the Blue Room delivers the beauty and thrill, minus the jet lag.

INSTEAD OF: THE GREEK ISLANDS

TRY: SAILING IN ANGUILLA IT'S THE ISLAND'S NATIONAL SPORT!

While sailing the Med might be your idea of a dream vacation, why not learn the ropes of the ocean's oldest sport in a dreamy Caribbean destination known for its sailing culture? Anguilla has a rich sailing history and boatbuilding legacy that dates back to the birth of competitive sailing post-WWII. With its postcard-perfect, calm turquoise waters hosting numerous annual regattas and attracting A-listers galore, it's no surprise that sailing is Anguilla's national sport. Affectionately nicknamed 'The Tropical Grand Mansion', Quintessence is an exclusive, five-star hideaway that overlooks Long Bay Beach, one of Anguilla's most immaculate stretches of coastline. This 12-suite Relais & Chateaux property is the perfect jumping off point for exploring the island by sailboat… and unwinding with a spa treatment and dip in the infinity pool afterwards. It also offers Quinn – a collection of modest suites at an approachable price point – so you can save on your stay and splurge on those sailing lessons.

INSTEAD OF: TABLE MOUNTAIN IN CAPE TOWN

TRY: HIKING ST. LUCIA'S GROS PITON – A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Want epic hiking views without traveling across the globe? St. Lucia's breathtakingly beautiful cotton-candy colored beach horizons and grass covered mountains are a perfect reason to burn some extra calories on your next vacation. Not to mention, you'll save more than 10 hours of flying time by swapping a Cape Town trip for this exotic Caribbean locale. The island's award-winning, adults-only luxury resort, Jade Mountain is known for its 3-walled guest 'sanctuaries' complete with en-suite infinity pools and private butlers who will do everything from pop your Champagne to scale the island's notorious 9,000-foot Gros Piton with you. Spread across the same 600-acre property, Jade Mountain's sister resort Anse Chastanet, offers a family-friendly, affordable option perfect for even the littlest hikers.

INSTEAD OF: A TROPICAL ESCAPE TO HAWAII

TRY: CHASING WATERFALLS AT EL YUNQUE RAINFOREST IN PUERTO RICO

If you're hungry for a Jurassic Park-inspired island adventure with picture-perfect beaches and beautiful cultural displays, Puerto Rico is the perfect East Coast alternative to Hawaii, with easy direct flights from over 20 major cities – no passport required! The quaint, local town of Rio Grande, just 20 minutes outside of San Juan's metropolitan city center, is comparable to the little local villages on Kauai and is known as the gateway to the El Yunque Rainforest. The crown jewel of the U.S. National Parks System, it is the only true rainforest on American soil and one of our most biodiverse parks, home to the critically endangered Puerto Rican Green Parrot, double rainbow waterfalls and sparkling cascades. At its foothills, Hyatt Regency Grand Reserve Puerto Rico offers an idyllic home base for exploring El Yunque (just a 15-minute drive). Set on an exclusive, 72-acre private peninsula surrounded by coral reefs that create its magical, slow-rolling lagoon-style, white sand beaches that are ripe with wildlife sightings. For a dose of local culture, pop by the nearby Kioskos de Luquillo for authentic Puerto Rican bites or head to the neighboring town of Loiza – a local culture, art and music hub – and swap out hula dancing for brushing up on your traditional Puerto Bomba skills.

Cayman Islands
The Caribbean's
CULINARY CAPITAL

By: Tutelars

Dubbed the culinary capital of the Caribbean, the Cayman Islands - specifically Grand Cayman - has become a mecca for travelers who wish to enjoy the white sand beaches and pristine turquoise waters of the Caribbean, without sacrificing quality dining in the process. In Cayman, where "every 'ting is on di menu", visitors and locals alike enjoy a staggering array of dining options, from road-side jerk huts and oceanfront fish shacks to modern restaurants that are re-imagining global cuisines and even the finest in ultra-fine dining. Blue by Eric Ripert at the Ritz Carlton is the Caribbean's first AAA Five Diamond restaurant and serves elegant, refined dishes focused on seafood just like at his flagship New York location Le Bernardain, but with a Caribbean touch. The new Hotel Indigo serves tasting menus at their twenty-two-seat restaurant RASA which changes quarterly and highlights cuisine from around the globe such as Luxury Caribbean, Chinese, English, Nordic and Middle East.

Outside of the hotels there are a multitude of restaurants that cater to a wide variety of tastes. One up and coming team of restaurateurs known as Prime Group have made a big splash in the past few years and are quickly becoming key contributors to Cayman's culinary landscape. With a growing portfolio of restaurants that offer quality international cuisines in funky, comfortable dining rooms at reasonable prices, their concepts include Lucky Rabbit Japanese Izakaya, Carnivore SMASH burgers, San Si Wu Noodle Co. and LIU Chinese Kitchen which are a must-visits on your next trip to the Cayman. Prime Group also operates Prime Kitchen, the island's premier private chef and catering company that can effortlessly plan and execute anything from a single meal at your villa or daily breakfast, lunch and dinner services for your entire stay.
While Grand Cayman's geographical area may not be as vast as its name might imply, the island does not come up short when it comes to natural beauty or quality food offerings. They say big things come in small packages and Cayman has certainly managed to create a booming and spectacularly vibrant food scene within its borders that is showing no signs of slowing down anytime soon.

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